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[Subject] ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY,
THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD
AND
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

To

American Diplomatic and Consular Officers.

Sirs:

The object of this circular is to provide general background information concerning the National Intelligence Authority, its relationship to the several government departments, and its functions.

Acting upon the recommendation of the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, the President, by Presidential Directive dated 22 January 1946 (see Federal Register of 5 February 1946), designated the Secretaries of State, War and Navy and Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, his personal representative, as the National Intelligence Authority (N.I.A.) responsible for planning, developing and coordinating all Federal foreign intelligence activities so as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security. Excluded from this mission was any responsibility for police, law enforcement or internal security functions.

To assist the N.I.A. the President directed that the State, War and Navy Departments from time to time make available persons and facilities from the respective departments.

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ments, which persons should collectively form a Central Intelligence Group (C.I.G.) under a Director of Central Intelligence. The latter is appointed by the President, is responsible to the N.I.A. and sits as a non-voting member thereof. To advise the Director of Central Intelligence there was created an Intelligence Advisory Board (I.A.B.). The permanent members of the I.A.B. are the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence, the Director of Intelligence, War Department General Staff, the Chief of Naval Intelligence, and the Assistant Chief of Air Staff-2. Additional Departments and agencies are represented when matters involving those Departments or agencies are under discussion.

By a series of interpretive directives, the N.I.A. has further defined the responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence and the functions of the C.I.G. The relationship of the I.A.B. and of the individual Departments to the central organization has likewise been clarified and strengthened.

The Director of Central Intelligence is now authorized and directed to act for the N.I.A. in coordinating all federal foreign intelligence activities related to the national security to insure that the over-all policies and objectives established by the N.I.A. are properly implemented and executed. Subject to the direction and control of the

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N.I.A., he is also charged with:

a. Directing the activities of the C.I.G.;

b. Accomplishing the correlation and evaluation of intelligence relating to the national security, and the appropriate dissemination of the resulting strategic and national policy intelligence within the government. (In so doing, full use shall be made of the staff and facilities of the Departmental intelligence agencies.)

c. Furnishing strategic and national policy intelligence to the President and the State, War and Navy Departments and, as appropriate, to the State, War and Navy Coordinating Committee, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other governmental departments and agencies having strategic and policy functions related to the national security.

d. Recommending to the N.I.A. such over-all policies and objectives as may be necessary to accomplish the national intelligence mission.

e. Performing intelligence services of common concern to departments of the government, as directed by the N.I.A.

f. Performing such other intelligence functions and duties relating to the national security as are directed by the President and the N.I.A.

The responsibilities of the C.I.G. are exclusive of those of the individual departments. The latter retain

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their traditional functions of collecting, evaluating, correlating and disseminating departmental intelligence. In coordinating the activities of the departmental intelligence agencies and in supplementing those activities, where directed or agreed, the C.I.G. operates with the advice of, and through the members of, the I.A.B. The N.I.A. has established as a policy that all recommendations be submitted to the I.A.B. for concurrence or comment prior to submission to the Authority. It has also recognized that any recommendations which the Director of Central Intelligence and the I.A.B. approve unanimously and have the existing authority to execute may be put into effect without action by the Authority. Such recommendations will, where applicable, govern the intelligence activities of the individual departments, and the members of the I.A.B. are each responsible for insuring that approved recommendations are executed within their respective departments and that departmental facilities are contributed, within available means, to the national intelligence mission.

The original concept of the composition of the C.I.G. has for administrative and security reasons been modified slightly. There is no change in the basic principle that the C.I.G. will be considered, organized and operated as a cooperative interdepartmental activity with adequate and equitable participation by the State, War and Navy

*The Army Air Forces participate on a basis similar to that of the Army and Navy.

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Departments. However, the Departments are no longer responsible for furnishing all personnel and facilities required by the C.I.G. but, instead provide personnel for selected policy positions in the C.I.G., the C.I.G. recruiting directly for other necessary personnel. Such selected personnel are administered and operate under the control of the Director of Central Intelligence but are held on departmental rolls for personnel procedures. Through this system of departmental nominations it is anticipated that the C.I.G. will be enabled to retain its inter-departmental complexion. From a substantive intelligence standpoint further insurance that departmental views are incorporated in the C.I.G. intelligence reports and estimates is provided by a special staff, within the framework of the C.I.G., charged with securing departmental concurrence or comment on all such reports or estimates.

On the policy side, departmental views are contributed through the I.A.B. and, at a lower level, through a continuing series of interdepartmental meetings sponsored by the C.I.G. for the purpose of preparing agreed recommendations for the establishment of over-all policies, plans and procedures to assure the most effective accomplishment of the national intelligence mission. It is through this coordinating machinery that the C.I.G.-N.I.A. organization plays one of its most outstanding roles. For the first time in the history of this country there has been established

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an instrumentality with the necessary powers and authority to focus the intelligence facilities of the various government departments on that information and intelligence, both civilian and military, which can be of greatest assistance in planning our international policy and in safeguarding our national security. It is to be hoped that haphazard coordination in this field is a thing of the past and that the future will bring a cooperative, objective effort which will insure a minimum of duplication and a maximum of efficiency in both the coordination of activities and the preparation of intelligence required by all agencies to discharge their various responsibilities.

To achieve the desired results, the several agencies represented on or by the D.I.A. obviously must cooperate as fully as their means permit. The coordinating program embraces activities in the field as well as at home. Steady rather than spectacular progress is to be expected. One of the problems now being tackled is a delineation of departmental responsibilities in respect to collecting and reporting information in the field. It is anticipated that instructions on that general subject (and on particular aspects of it) and on field coordination will be forthcoming shortly. Such instructions will be announced through normal departmental channels. It is recognized that defects and deficiencies will appear in whatever program is devised. Time and experience will suggest the adjustments which must

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be made before the plans and procedures desired by the
U.I.A. are perfected. The State Department has a high
stake in this cooperative enterprise and expects therefore
that the program as it evolves will be received in foreign
posts as an important forward step in the national
interest.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

William A. Eddy

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